

CALFED Policy Group

**March 10, 1999
12:30 - 5:00 p.m.**

**Resources Building
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1131
Sacramento**



Memorandum

Date: March 3, 1999

To: CALFED Policy Group

From: Lester A. Snow

Subject: March 10th Policy Group Meeting

The CALFED Policy Group will meet on March 10, 1999 from 12:30 to 5:00 p.m. in Room 1131 of the Resources Building in Sacramento.

The primary topics of this meeting are the following:

1. CALFED Water Management Strategy

The CALFED Water Management Strategy is emerging as a keystone of the Program's approach to managing water for environmental restoration, water quality improvements and improvements in water reliability for all users. We will discuss several components of the Strategy. We are seeking the Policy Group's concurrence on the overall direction that CALFED is moving in each of these components of the strategy. We are particularly interested in your advice regarding the Program's progress to date in developing ways to link all of these water management tools with one another.

In your packet you will find updates on the following components of the Water Management Strategy:

- Update on work to date on Demand Scenarios and overall Strategy refinement
- Update on the Economic Analysis
- Integrated Storage Investigation
- Transfers
- 404 Compliance Strategy
- Environmental Water Account

CALFED Agencies

California

The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal

Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

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2. Governance

Included in your packet is a straw proposal for an entity capable of implementing early Stage I restoration actions. We are seeking your concurrence on this concept.

3. Stage I Actions and Bundles

CALFED staff will present a proposal for bundling Stage I actions along with some preliminary cost estimates and cost allocation. Since CALFED staff will be receiving suggestions for revisions from the Small Group at the end of this week, the proposal is not included here in this packet. You will receive the latest proposal at your places on March 10th.

4. CALFED Policy on Water Options Acquisitions

Federal members of the Policy Group have been deliberating on a policy regarding the use of Bay Delta Security Act for securing water for CALFED-related actions. The draft language will be at your places on March 10th.

5. VAMP (Vernalis Adaptive Management Plan)

6. EIR/S Schedule

We will be reviewing the schedule for the proposed June release of the draft revised EIR/S and potential decision points for the Policy Group between now and the release. We will also review decisions which Policy Group will be asked to make as part of the completion of the NEPA/CEQA process and issuance of a final Record of Decision.

Finally, in fulfillment of a request made by the Policy Group, the CALFED agencies will provide you with the draft plan for the Comprehensive Monitoring, Assessment and Research program (CMARP). CALFED staff are in the process of integrating research and monitoring actions into each of their final implementation plans. We anticipate that the final plans will be ready for Policy Group review by the May meeting.

Also attached for your review is a calendar of proposed meeting dates for Policy Group meetings through 1999. We have sought input from all of you regarding your availability on these dates. Please let us know if any of these dates pose a hardship for you. Please note also that we are tentatively planning joint meetings with the Bay Delta Advisory Council in May and possibly in November or December of this year.

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I also want to take this opportunity to invite you to attend the upcoming meeting of the Bay-Delta Advisory Council. BDAC will be meeting on March 24-25 in Bakersfield. The all-day meeting on March 25 will be preceded on March 24 by a tour of the Kern Water Bank and selected farms in the Arvin Edison Irrigation District. If you need any assistance with travel arrangements, please contact Robin Jenkins at the CALFED office.

Let me also remind you that all of the attached materials, and any others prepared for the Policy Group and Small Group meetings, are draft, internal agency documents. They are prepared to assist you in conducting candid, internal agency-level discussions. As such they are not intended for circulation outside of the meetings.

Thank you. We look forward to seeing you all on March 10th.

Attachment